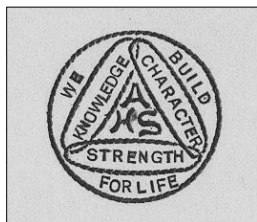


# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

## Newsletter to Members 2017 FALL .....ISSUE #4/4

*Discovering our history,  
Preserving our past,  
Sharing our stories.*



The 1910 Ames High graduation program featured this symbol.

### Ames Historical Society Board:

<b>Co-President</b>	Sharon Wirth
<b>Co-President</b>	Peter Hallock
<b>Secretary</b>	Lynette Spicer
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Shannon Bardole-Foley, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Sarah Kassen, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Clarke Pasley, Ryan Riley, Ardy Ulrichson, Hank Zaletel

*The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!*

### Staff:

<b>Executive Director</b>	Casie Vance
<b>Research &amp; Media Specialist</b>	Alex Fejfar
<b>Collections Mgr./Volunteer Coord.</b>	Hannah Frederick

### Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

**Headquarters:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010

**Hours** Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm

**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

**Phone:** 515-232-2148

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**Website:** [www.AmesHistory.org](http://www.AmesHistory.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety)

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of Meeker School near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open Sundays June to August and by appointment. April to October. Closed November to March.

## Unveiling Our Newest Exhibit: Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years



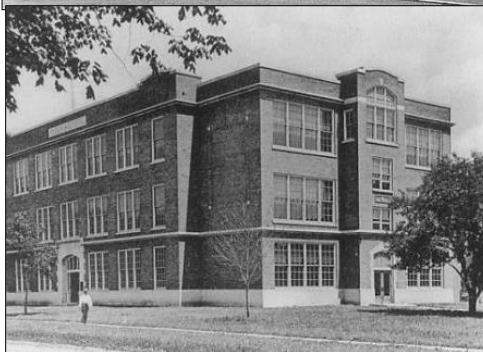
The new exhibit at the History Center, **Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years** opens December 1 and will feature the four buildings that - through time - have housed our city's high school. On view to August 9.

On display will be pictures of those four structures and stories about academics, athletics, clubs, activities, social life, events and performing arts during the era students attended each school building.

The exhibit will include a wall of names of all Ames High graduates, a slide show of high school "hang-outs" through the years and what the future holds for a possible Ames High #5.



The top photo shows the first brick schoolhouse in Ames built in 1881. It served as the only school for all Ames children in the 1880s and 1890s. Then it became Ames' first high school. It stood on the west side of Clark Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> photo, the 1881 structure was extensively remodeled and added on to during its years of use.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> photo shows the newly built Ames High School building on the east side of Clark Avenue. Later, the building was expanded on south and north ends, making the end classrooms about 8 to 10 feet longer than they were when this photo taken. After the 1939 high school was built, this building was converted to the junior high. The 4<sup>th</sup> picture is the 1939 high school that now serves as Ames City Hall.



## You're Invited to Members After Hours

Our second 2017 Members After Hours event is  
**Thursday, November 30, 4-6pm.**

This will be a preview of the Ames High exhibit  
that opens to the public on December 1.

Socializing and refreshments will be the order of the evening!

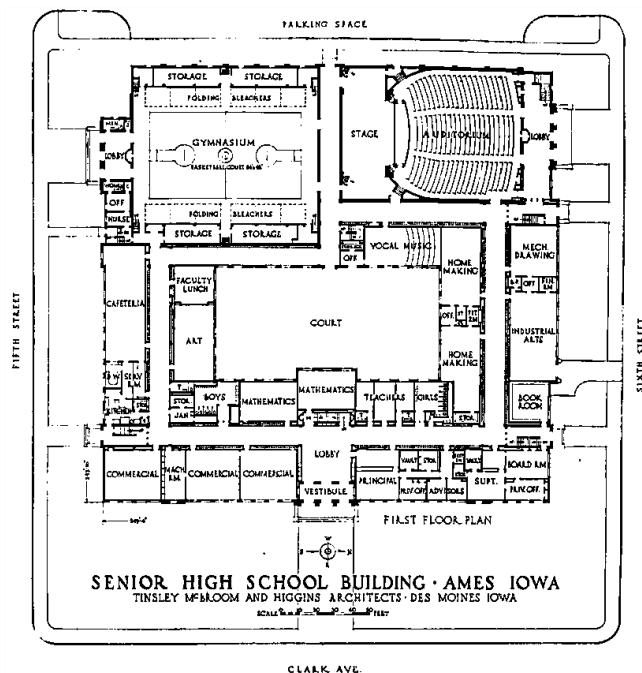
## Local Stories – the Third High School

### The Pride of Their Community

*The following is excerpted from an article that appeared in the February 1940 issue of the American School Board Journal, complete with pictures and floor plans. This 1939 building now serves as Ames City Hall.*

With the formal dedication of its new senior high school on September 28, 1939 by Professor W. H. Meeker of Iowa State College, a 28-year member of the school board, the people of Ames, Iowa had their first opportunity to inspect the pride of their community – the most completely modern senior high school in this central area.

Of modified Georgian style, this two-story building with red brick exterior, trimmed with stone and having stone entrances, is 244 by 253 ft. built around a hollow square.



Located in the central part of the downtown section of Ames, the senior high school is built to accommodate 800 pupils. Across the street stands the old high school recently transformed into a junior high. The new building is heated from the central heating plant located near the junior high school. A tunnel 160 ft. long connects the two buildings providing for student passage between the two schools and also for the heating mains from the central plant.

With an east front, the classroom unit is on the north, east, and south sides of the hollow square. On the west are the auditorium and gymnasium, each connected to the classroom unit.

The first floor contains the economics department, the principal's suite, the teachers' suite, the mathematics

and commercial departments, the art room and cafeteria, toilets and janitor rooms. On the second floor are the typical classrooms for speech, science, visual education, a study hall and library.

### THE AUDITORIUM



The main entrance to the auditorium faces north. The auditorium is 74 ft. wide by 118 ft. long. From the front of the stage to the wall behind the seats the distance is only 70 ft. There are 715 seats on the main floor and 378 in the balcony, a total of 1,093. Each seat is upholstered with the best grade mohair and box-spring seats of imitation leather. The floor is bowl shaped, with rows forming an arc so that each seat faces the rear center of the stage. The slope of the floor allows each spectator to see over the heads of those in front of him.

Curved lines are employed extensively in the design. The side walls curve in gently toward the stage and the front of the balcony curves toward the side walls. These curves seem to bring the stage closer to the audience. The side walls to the balcony floor are lined with acoustic stone, with radiators recessed. Acoustic squares on the ceiling panel make perfect acoustics.

Behind the grill above the proscenium are four directional loud-speakers which may carry sound from the microphones on the stage, from the principal's office or from microphones elsewhere in the building. The wrought iron grills on each side of the stage cover openings for a pipe organ, to be installed later.

### THE STAGE

Including a 5-ft. apron, the stage is 29 ft. deep, 74 ft. wide, with a proscenium opening of 37 ft. The switchboard is custom-built and carries a dimmer bank for the house lights, ceiling and border spots and floods, stage floodlights, and the floor outlets.



The stage curtains are dark blue velour. The olio is made of damask with three-tone colors. The dressing rooms are reached via steel circular stairs at the rear of the stage. The stage floor is without footlights and is hard maple in front of the curtain and fir behind.

A telephone connects the switchboard with the ticket booth and the projection room that contains a 16-mm. sound projector. "Flexibility" was the key word in planning the auditorium. The entire arrangement makes for a rapid clearance of the stage and permits numerous possibilities. The orchestra pit is ample for 25 musicians.

[The auditorium now serves the community as Ames City Auditorium.]

## HALLWAYS

The corridors are 11 ft. wide and include recessed lockers, combination locks, recessed radiators and drinking fountains. The floors are terrazzo, with glazed-tile wainscoting. Double-faced clocks make the time visible to all students. Three recessed trophy cases add to the beauty of the front-entrance hall. Stairs are terrazzo with glazed-tile wainscoting.

## THE ATTRACTIVE LIBRARY



One of the feature rooms is the library on second floor. It has quarter-sawed white oak furniture and woodwork. All library shelves and radiators are recessed. Excellent acoustics give an atmosphere for concentrated study. On the opposite end is the study hall. Lights are auto-matically controlled through an electric "eye" which turns the lights on or off as needed. [This space is now the Council Chambers.]

## THE GYMNASIUM

The gymnasium is 100 by 1020 ft. and has seating capacity for 1,500. Twelve sections of seven-tier, telescope-folding bleachers provide for maximum use of the gymnasium at all times. Underneath the balcony sections are four game and storage rooms. An electric scoreboard of the latest design and visible from all sections of the bleachers, informs the fans of the score

and time during games. The floor is hard maple. The playing court is 48 by 84 ft.

The boys' and girls' dressing rooms are located on the second floor adjacent to the gymnasium. Each is complete with director's office, first-aid room, towel room, shower room, and lecture rooms. A separate room for faculty and visiting teams is provided for the boys. [The gym currently is extensively used by Ames Parks and Recreation for programs and activities.]

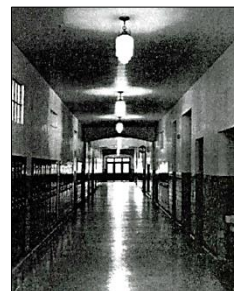
The article went on to describe in great detail the other areas of the building:

- The speech room with its 9 x 22-ft. stage.
- The art room with its recessed sink, cupboards and desks with drawing boards.
- The vocal music room with theater seats placed on risers.
- The acoustically treated band room in the basement with capacity for an 8-piece band.
- The two large combination cooking and sewing rooms for homemaking classes.
- The industrial-arts department with a blocks-on-end floor.
- The science rooms with their wood floors, preparation room and darkroom.
- The visual-education room with a science instructor's demonstration table.
- The cafeteria with seating for 136 and the complete kitchen including a steamer, steam kettle, battery range, baking ovens and 45-cu.-ft. refrigerator.
- The administration suite with its complete intercommunicating system.
- Classrooms with asphalt-tile floors, acousti-celotex ceilings, semi-indirect lights, loud-speakers, clocks, telephones, recessed teacher's lockers, steel shelving for books, blackboards and bulletin-boards and pedestal-type, adjustable, portable desks.

The building, a PWA (Public Works Administration) Project cost \$575,985, was financed as follows:

PWA grant.....	\$257,400
Building-fund balance.....	\$93,585
Sale of bonds.....	\$225,000

The first bond issue of \$175,000 carried an interest rate of 2.5% and the final issue of \$50,000 carried the low rate of 1.75%. The cost per cubic foot, including architect's fees, and equipment, was approximately 31 cents.



With the inspiration of their new school, the motto "Ames High Aims High" is quite apt.

## Upcoming Events

### Santa Comes Dec. 2



The History Center's Old-Fashioned Christmas is Saturday, December 2. Enjoy refreshments, holiday crafts and games from 10 am to 2 pm. Santa will appear from 10 am to noon. Free and open to the public.

### 2018 Save-the-Dates

Dates have been set for the 2018 Historical Society Lecture Series:

- Tuesday, February 20, 7pm
- Tuesday, March 27, 7pm
- Wednesday April 25, 7pm
- Wednesday, May 23, 7pm
- TBD: either June 26 or 27, 7pm

### Holiday Closures

The History Center will be closed for the holidays: for Thanksgiving, Thurs. – Sat., November 23-25 and for Christmas, Sat. – Tues., December 23-26.

## Event Wrap-up

### Historic Quilts Exhibit

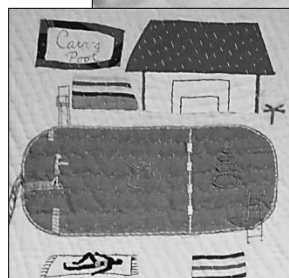
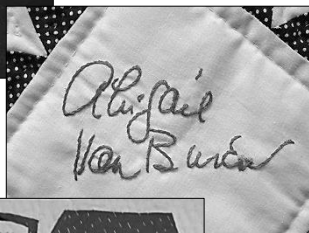
The Society-curated exhibit "Pieced Fabric: Historic Quilts" was on display at the Octagon Center for the Arts through October 28. It provided a rare chance to see quilts in our collection and get information about materials and techniques used by early quilters.



Bicentennial in 1976. That colorful quilt featured many classic scenes from Ames, such as Carr's Pool (right).

We are grateful to the Octagon for including us in their exhibit program.

Among the quilts were a crazy quilt, the Famous lowans Signature Quilt (below) and the quilt made for the American



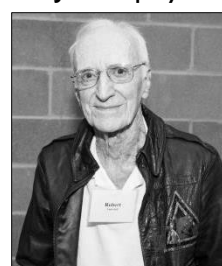
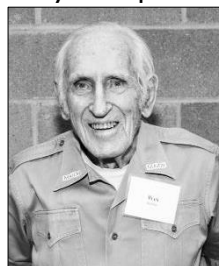
## Annual Benefit

### A Festive and Moving Evening

The Society's annual benefit held this year on August 26 carried forward the WW2 theme of the most recent exhibit, *Ames Doing Its Part*. Guests to the event got into the spirit with period costumes and enjoyed the lively Al Welsh dance band, period-appropriate cocktails and the very moving performance of Jane Cox's play, *Heroes Among Us* about real-life war experiences.



Special guests for the evening were two WW2 veterans, Wes Buchele (left) and Bob Underhill, whose story was presented in Jane's play. The young actors



were excited to meet one of the people they were portraying. Wes passed away just 2 1/2 weeks later.



Costumed guests: Wendy and Doug Livy (above), Board Co-President Peter Hallock, (above right), (right) Martha and Virginia Griesheimer, Sara Prins and Renee Rule.



A catered meal, a live auction for 10 unique donated community experiences and the Farwell T. Brown Award filled out the evening. The event netted \$3,212.

### Benefit Thanks

We owe special thanks to a number of people and organizations for contributions to the Annual Benefit:

- Playwright Jane Cox and her student actors, Michael Clinkscales, Alexander Criswell and Erin Stein
- The auction donors: Shannon Bardole-Foley, Larry Mitchell, Kathy Svec, Dean & Ardy Ulrichson, Bob Bourne, Greg Vitale, Don & Sharon Wirth, Jane & Patrick Hansen, N.J. Poklitar, Hap's Air Service
- Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program

### 2017 Farwell Brown Award



The 2017 Farwell T. Brown Award for exemplary service to the Ames Historical Society was presented to Kathy Svec (right) at the annual benefit. She recounted her involvement, starting with the purchase of a historic house in

downtown Ames that piqued her interest in its story - an event that led to taking a Board position in 1989.

This led to putting together the 1989 Ames 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibit at the Octagon with the help of Farwell Brown - her crash course in Ames history! In 1994, at the urging of Lois Vohs, she joined with others to begin serious planning for a long overdue, permanent museum. She said, "I don't know if we had known then how long it would take - nearly 20 years - if we would have been too discouraged to start - but luckily, we didn't know and just kept taking step after step after step. Building a new institution takes perseverance over time and you have to keep at it!"

She listed those steps: a Town Meeting at which the museum planning group was encouraged to start small but think big. Other meetings of all sorts. Surveys, focus groups and market research. Grant writing. Opening an all-volunteer demonstration museum (1999-2001). More grants. Two moves to different locations. Hiring the first half-time administrator. Finding a building. Fundraising to buy it during the recent recession. Burning the contract, Jan. 3, 2012. Growing to three full-time staff.

She mentioned important people who joined the cause along the way - some were previous awardees - Peggy Baer, Dennis Wendell, Alan Spohnheimer and Margaret

Vance, plus Rollie and Willie Struss, Lois and Bob Vohs, Jack and Barbara Adams, Bob Cody and many more, including Board members, staff and volunteers.

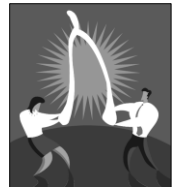
She added, "While our membership, programs, staff and collection have grown - there are more challenges:"

- Increasing our operational support so we can pay competitive wages and hire additional staff
- Expanding into the whole building at 416 Douglas - space that we desperately need
- Growing our Endowment to provide stable, ongoing funding for operations
- Securing adequate storage space for our all-important historic collection.

She thanked all those who have supported and shaped the Ames History Center so far - and asked for their continued involvement. (Pictured left: Sharon Wirth)

### Society Wish List

Very grateful thanks go to JoAnn Kinart and John Jacobson for office supplies and to Marilyn Alger for money toward printing the Campustown brochure in color. We are so pleased!



Other wishes:

- Contributions for a City of Ames solar power pack; see our Facebook page for more info
- Funds for archival boxes (approximately \$13 each)
- Ames photos from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive)
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)
- Office and building supplies: computer printer paper, trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.
- Additional donations toward printing the new Campustown walking tour brochure in color

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org).

### News briefs

- **Hallway exhibits** at the History Center are:
  - Stevens Block on Main Street
  - Artifacts from the Attic: Dolls
  - ACTORS history
  - A City Afloat: Floods of the 1990s
- Join the 2,178 people who "like" us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear each week in the Ames Tribune are posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments!
- Amazon shoppers - investigate the simple way that your **purchases** through Amazon Smile can return a portion of sales to the Society.

## Happy Diners



At the Annual Benefit, Mary Kay and Alan Abbott won the bid on a dinner at The Roosevelt – which ended up being their 60th wedding anniversary celebration! Hosts for the dinner were: Sharon and Don Wirth, N. J. Pokliter, Gary Alexander and Betsy West.

## Extended Member Benefit

Society members will now receive a **15% discount** for everything in the Gift Shop **all year long**. This is a change from the 25% discount offered twice a year. Shoppers just need to mention their membership when making a purchase. For non-members, the Gift Shop is offering 10% off from November 10 through December 22 for the holidays.

## Grateful for Grants

The staff was very pleased to win approval of several grants that will support the touring exhibition about early Ames African-American pilot, Herman Banning :

- Story County Community Foundation Community Grant - \$6,000
- United Way's Golf Fore Kids Grant - \$1,000
- Wells Fargo Grant- \$650

## Hoggatt Visitors

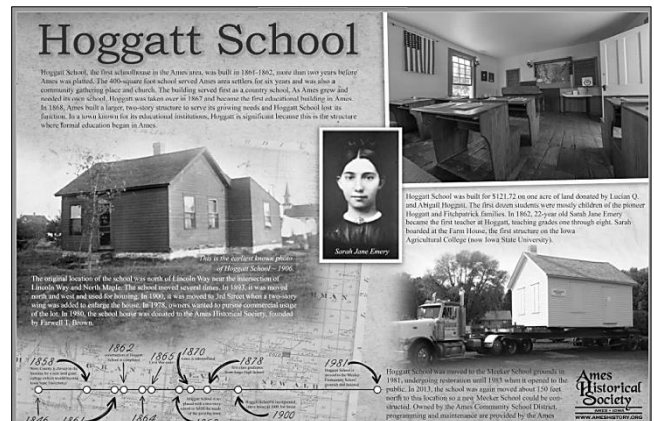


A group of students from Peoria Christian School in Pella visited Hoggatt School on October 9 and were treated to a program by Board members Shannon Bardole (right) and Ryan Riley. From Ames, classes from Mitchell and Fellows Schools also visited this fall.

## Time Capsule Opening

On September 7, community members had the chance to peer into 1951 Ames at a time capsule opening ceremony at the old Edwards Elementary building. The capsule contained various school documents and newspapers from 1950-51. It was laid a year before the building at 3622 Woodland St. opened to students. When demolition of the building began, the cornerstone with its "1951" inscription was removed. Society staff was present for the capsule opening. Hannah Frederick, Collections Manager, stated, "I especially love time capsules. They are one of those things where the assemblers ask, 'What do people want to know about this school in 50 or 100 years?'" The contents will be preserved in the Society's archives.

## Hoggatt Sign & Plantings



A colorful historical site sign has been installed at Hoggatt School. The Hoggatt School Committee developed it with Sharon Wirth researching text and Ryan Riley providing layout assistance. Fabrication was done by Sign Pro of Ames, with funding from the Society's budget. Installation was donated by the school district (special thanks go to Gerry Peters). The sign will provide information for passersby even when the school is not open. Hoggatt is open April through October.

In June, the Hoggatt Committee collaborated with Story County Master Gardeners to introduce native prairie plants around the school house. They will be incorporated into educational programming centered on the prairie landscape. The Gardeners received a Neal Smith Wildlife Preserve Program grant to cover plant costs. Those involved were Lynette Spicer, Jo Moore, Lisa Hein, Diana Adkins, Joan Peterson and Donald Lewis with assistance from Society co-president, Sharon Wirth. A nearby neighbor allowed us to store the hose cart at her house and the school district donated access to water. Jo Moore saw to regular watering. Plants include those that attract pollinators and butterflies to create a prairie-like appearance.



### Hannah's Departing Story



Collections Manager, Hannah Frederick, has accepted an exciting new job as the Historical Program Specialist at Montauk Historical Site in Clermont, IA. She says, "Since I will be the only full-time employee responsible for three sites, I will wear many hats. I'll plan and manage the education, collection and maintenance programs at the Montauk Historic Site, the Clermont Museum and the Union Sunday School." Montauk was built in 1874 for Iowa Governor William Larrabee.

Hannah started volunteering for the Society early in 2012. She had graduated a few years before from ISU with a degree in history. She stated, "I found out about the Historical Society and immediately wanted to get involved." She started volunteering one day/week, working on various projects, then was hired in October 2012 to work one day a week. Her hours expanded to 20 hours a week and then to full-time. In May 2016, she received her online Master's Degree in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma.

We asked Hannah what she is most proud of. She answered, "Our volunteer program! We have many dedicated volunteers, starting with a pool of retired people doing long-term projects. Then, I recruited middle and high school, and college students for additional projects. In 2014 we had 3,219 volunteer hours and last year we had 6,187 hours, going from ~200 hrs/mo. to 500 hrs/mo! We now have a steady group of high school and ISU students that help in many different areas."

"I am also very proud of my work with collections. I have continued to inventory the collection and enter objects into our PastPerfect database. I have consolidated our storage from 11 locations to 3. I won a \$5,000 State of Iowa HRDP grant that will help us bring our current storage up to environmental standards, catalog 2,000 objects, provide boxes for objects and pay for us to launch PastPerfect Online which will allow our collection to be viewed from our website."

Hannah will be sorely missed at the History Center. Her drive to learn has been impressive and her ability to set and achieve goals has moved important functions forward in a very positive way. Her last day is Nov. 22. A search for her replacement will be launched soon.

### Appealing To You

The Ames Historical Society is a small organization doing a big job with limited resources.

Members have received our annual appeal letter with a "numbers" page of 2017's accomplishments, numbers that document our steady service to the community.

#### Why should you donate?

First, we want to respond to residents' requests for more services and, secondly, we face big challenges.

- Collection storage is at full capacity and additional space is needed.
- There are more demands on our staff and we need to provide them with a living wage – plus we'd like to further expand our programs.
- We occupy half of our building. If we could build our Endowment from \$125,000 to over \$600,000, we could better utilize space we badly need.

Funds from this appeal go to the operating fund but additional donations to the endowment fund are welcome.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check OR ☐ Credit card

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send info about adding the Society to my will.

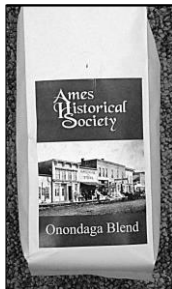
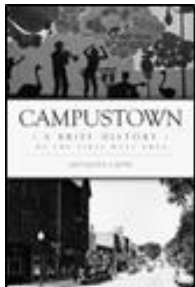
Send to Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010

Ames Historical Society  
PO Box 821  
Ames, Iowa 50010

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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AMES, IOWA 50010

Return Service Requested

## Museum Shop



### ANNOUNCING A MEMBER BENEFIT:

15% off all shop items, all the time!

(Non-members – 10% off Nov. 1 – Dec. 22, 2017)

### A NEW SUPPLY OF ONONDAGA COFFEE:

The Shop has restocked our popular Onondaga Blend coffee, roasted especially for the Society by Burgie's Coffee in Ames. Combine a bag with a handmade pottery coffee mug for a great hostess gift.

### THREE NEW BOOK TITLES:

A Culinary History of Iowa; Younkers, the Friendly Store;  
Campustown: a Brief History of the First West Ames.

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



*Master Gardeners plant native prairie plants around Hoggatt School to create a more 1860s look to the school house's landscaping.*

### Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010